Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124731
ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
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----------311811Z 008396 /50
P 311540Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 31 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. HEDRICK SMITH, IN MAY 31 NEW YORK TIMES, SAID "TO GIVE NEW PUSH TO HIS DRIVE TO DETER SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SELECTED GERARD C. SMITH, ARMS CONTROL CHIEF IN NIXON ADMINISTRATION, TO BECOME AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS ON NUCLEAR ISSUE." TIMES CORRESPONDENT, QUOTING ADMINISTRATION SOURCES, SAID ONE OF SMITH'S PRINCIPAL TASKS "WILL BE TO RENEGOTIATE "JUST ABOUT ALL" OF 30 NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN U.S. AND COUNTRIES TO WHICH IT SUPPLIES NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY OR ENRICHED URANIUM. AMBASSADOR SMITH, ACCORDING TO TIMES, ALSO IS EXPECTED TO REPRESENT U.S. AT IAEA IN VIENNA "AND IN DELIBERATIONS ON LONG-TERM NUCLEAR STUDY AUTHORIZED BY SEVEN WESTERN LEADERS AT THEIR SUMMIT
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 124731

CONFERENCE YN LONDON EARLY THIS MONTH." TIMES SAID SMITH WAS REPORTED EARLIER TO HAVE BEEN OFFERED POST OF AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW AND TO HAVE TURNED IT DOWN.# TIMES NOTED THAT U.S. NOW HAS NO CONTROL OVER MOVEMENT OF NUCLEAR FUELS OR OVER PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING IN WESTERN EUROPE -- "CONTROLS THAT MUST BE SOUGHT UNDER TERMS OF NEW ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION." TIMES QUOTED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL AS SAYING

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

"THIS IS GOING TO BE VERY TOUGH TO GET, AND NEW NEGOTIATOR IS ONE WHO IS GOING TO HAVE TO DO BULK OF WORK." TIMES SAID ADMINISTRATION PLANS CALL FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH TO WORK CLOSELY WITH DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY JOSEPH NYE, WHO HEADS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

2. IN MAY 31 EDITORIAL, TIMES SAID ARMS CONTROL TALKS WITH RUSSIANS "APPEAR TO BE BACK ON TRACK AFTER DERAILMENT IN MOSCOW LAST MARCH, BUT THEY ARE NOT RUNNING SMOOTHLY OR ON SCHEDULE.... MORE GOOD MANNERS AND FLEXIBILITY WILL BE NEEDED ON BOTH SIDES IF SALT TWO TREATY IS TO BE READY TO SUPPLANT EXPIRING PORTIONS OF SALT ONE IN OCTOBER.... ADMINISTRATION'S DEVELOPING APPROACH SEEMS REALISTIC AND PLAUSIBLE. FEW FURTHER DELAYS ON CRUISE MISSILE SHOULD BE SEEN NOT SO MUCH AS CONCESSIONS TO RUSSIANS AS NECESSARY DUES FOR FAR-REACHING DEALS THAT MAY BE MADE IN TIME THUS GAINED. COST OF FAILURE WOULD MAKE THESE MODEST RESTRAINTS PALE IN SIGNIFICANCE."

3. WASHINGTON POST, IN STORY BASED ON U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, POINTED OUT PRESIDENT SAYS DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN WORLD IMPLIES "POSSIBILITY OF THEIR USE, IF NECESSARY" BUT THAT ANY NATION USING ATOMIC WEAPONS FOR FIRST TIME RISKS WORLD CONDEMNATION.

4. JAMES T. WOOTEN, IN MAY 29 NEW YORK TIMES, QUOTED PRESIDENT AS SAYING SECRETARY VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WILL DISCUSS ARMS LIMITATIONS IN GENEVA
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AT LEAST TWO MORE TIMES BEFORE MID-SEPTEMBER. WOOTEN SAID PRESIDENT GAVE NO SPECIFIC DATES FOR MEETINGS BUT SPOKE OPTIMISTICALLY OF PREVIOUS VANCE-GROMYKO TALKS. "I THINK WE'VE GOT IT BACK TO STAGE WHERE ACTUALLY, SERIOUSLY, WE'RE TRYING TO FIND SOME COMMON GROUND TO REACH AGREEMENT," CARTER TOLD REPORTERS ON HIS RETURN TO ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA, AFTER CRUISE ABOARD NUCLEAR SUBMARINE LOS ANGELES. COMMENTING ON RELATIVE STRENGTH OF U.S. AND SOVIET UNION, CARTER REPORTEDLY SAID HE BELIEVED "WE ARE WELL AHEAD OF SOVIETS" IN TECHNOLOGY, BUT THAT "THEY HAVE MORE AND THEY'RE BUILDING MORE."

5. THE WASHINGTON STAR SAID SWEDEN'S UPPSALA SEISMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE RECORDED APPARENT SOVIET UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSION MAY 28 IN WESTERN SIBERIA. BLAST MEASURED 6.4 ON RICHTER SCALE AND WAS THIRD AND STRONGEST IN REGION THIS YEAR. ERDA IN WASHINGTON SAID SIGNALS HAD BEEN DETECTED PRESUMABLY FROM SOVIET UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AT SEMIPALATINSK NUCLEAR TEST AREA IN SOUTHWESTERN SIBERIA.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

U.S. HAS CONDUCTED THREE UNDERGROUND TESTS THIS YEAR IN NEVADA, LAST WEEK.

6. MURREY MARDER, IN MAY 30 WASHINGTON POST, SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION SWITCHED TARGET OF SALT DIPLOMACY LAST WEEK FROM MOSCOW TO CAPITOL HILL, AND GAINED CONGRESSIONAL NOD TO CONTINUE SEARCH FOR COMPROMISE NUCLEAR ARMS ACCORD. "THROUGHOUT INTRICATE BARGAINING AHEAD, ADMINISTRATION NOW APPEARS LOCKED IN TO CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS ON BOTH FRONTS," MARDER SAID. ADMINISTRATION AGREED LAST WEEK, MARDER RECALLED, TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH CONGRESS AS SALT NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED. MARDER SAID SKEPTICS INSIDE ANY OUTSIDE ADMINISTRATION "REGARD CURRENT SITUATION AS MORE OF WARY POLITICAL TRUCE THAN PEACE SETTLEMENT." SOME ADMINISTRATION STRATEGISTS, HE ADDED, ARE DELIGHTED SENATOR JACKSON "PUT SUCH HIGH GLOSS ON INFORMATION-SHARING ARRANGEMENT HE REACHED WITH EXECUTIVE BRANCH."
UNCLASSIFIED

MARDER SAID "BENEATH NEW AIR OF HARMONY, HOWEVER, NEITHER SIDE IS ABANDONING ITS VIEW OF WHAT SHOULD BE IN OR OUT OF NEW TREATY WITH SOVIET UNION.... ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAY THEY DO NOT INTEND TO BE CAUGHT IN POSITION WHERE INFORMATION THEY SHARE CAN BE USED 'TO BUILD BACKFIRE' AGAINST OFFICIAL STRATEGY. THAT IS NUB OF PROBLEM: CONSTANT DILEMMA OF ALMOST EVERY ADMINISTRATION."

7. DAVID K. SHIPLER, IN MAY 30 NEW YORK TIMES, REPORTED FROM MOSCOW THAT BREZHNEV SAID "NO SERIOUS FORWARD MOVE-MENT" HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AT GENEVA IN ARMS TALKS. BREZHNEV, AS IN PAST, BLAMED U.S. FOR IMPASSE, ARGUING THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS STILL SEEKING ADVANTAGE. BREZHNEV'S TELEVISION STATEMENT WAS PRERECORDED AND BROADCAST IN FRANCE AS PRELUDE TO HIS VISIT THERE JUNE 20.

8. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, IN MAY 28 WASHINGTON POST, SAID CARTER IN MAY 19 MEETING WITH TEN SELECT SENATORS, WAS TOLD BY SEVERAL OF THEM THAT THEY SAW NO NEED FOR QUICK ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT AND WAS URGED TO STAND FAST. "ALTHOUGH LIBERALS WERE PRESENT, NO DISSENTING VIEW WAS EXPRESSED," EVANS AND NOVAK SAID. WHILE PROMISING THAT NO SPECIFIC NEW PROPOSALS ON STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTIONS WOULD BE FORMALLY PRESENTED TO RUSSIANS AT GENEVA, COLUMNISTS SAID CARTER WORRIED SENATORS WHEN HE DESCRIBED WHAT HE FELT WAS WORRYING RUSSIANS. PRESIDENT, ACCORDING TO EVANS AND NOVAK, SAID RUSSIANS ARE WORRIED ABOUT U.S. "FIRST-STRIKE CAPABILITY." IN FACT, EVANS AND NOVAK POINTED OUT, "U.S. IS NOT CLOSE TO SUCH CAPABILITY, AND RUSSIANS KNOW IT." CHRISTOPHER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN, (SMITH, HEDRICK), (SMITH, GERARD C)
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Type: TE
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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